A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ENGLISH NATION.

Thursday, April 18. 1706.

THE laſt Paper began the Unhappy Retroſpect upon the time of our laſt Elections of Parliament Men; and I confeſs, it moves me with Compaſſion, when I think, what a Flame of Parties threaten'd this whole Nation at this time; how furious, how hot ſome Men were, and to what heighth they carried their Ungovern'd Paſſions, when once ſet on Fire by the touch of this Flame; if any Man Accuſe me of a groundleſs Exclamation, ſpeak *Suffolk*, *Cheſhire*, *Suſſex*, *Kent*, and almoſt all the Counties in *England*. Where was a quiet Election, where the Calm Meeting of Parties, where the Choice, at which the Loſer does not Charge the other, with Fraud, Bribery, Perjury, ſplitting of Freeholds, deſeizable Contracts, Clandeſtine Purchaſes, and the like? Among the Burroughs, *Honiton*, *Okehampton*, *Rhetford*, *Norwich*, *Tamworth*, *Leiceſter*, *Colcheſter*, and a long Liſt of other Places, will riſe up and confeſs their Tumults, their Riots, Briberies, double Pollings, buying of Voices, and all manner of Corrupt Practices.

In this Heat and Fury of Elections, a new Project had its birth, which has ſince run its full length, done all the Miſchief it can, and at laſt, like *Goliah* by the Hands of a Stripling, is fall'n down dead by the breath of the Queen; this was that, when the People were found not to like the Word *Jacking*, ſo well as they ſhould do; then the Party ſtarts up a new Scare-Crow to render the People uneaſie; and this was as follows.

The throwing out the *Occaſional Bill*, was follow'd with the change of the Miniſtry—

The

The Party takes a pretended Fright at this, and Cries out, the Queen was a going to pull down the Church——The Words were too harsh at first among the People, who generally had a vast Affection for the Q e n's Person; so they left that out, and turn'd the Word to this, that the *Church was in Danger*, the Church was a falling ——And the Tackers forsooth were the Upholders of it; *blessed Supporters!* And at the Election for the County of *Worcester*, it was very remarkable, that they carried a Banner into the Field, with the Figure of the Church a falling, and Sir *F*... *P*.... holding it up; when the Election was over, and this Pillar of the Church was Chosen, another Banner was brought back, with the Church set strait again, and Sir *F*.... *P*.... Marching before it to defend it.

It must be observ'd here, that the Queen was left out a good while in their Common Reproaches, yet in private they offer'd unsufferable Indignities to her Person; their Clergy often left her out of their Graces after Meat, several out of their Prayers, and some out of the Pulpit; they Reproach'd Her Majesty with Abandoning the Church, breaking her Coronation Oath, and sometime had the Face to call her Presbyterian; and in short, all sorts of Indecencies began to be put upon Her Majesty's Person, as well as Government, upon this Topick of Deserting the Church.

Nor was this all; but from Her Majesty they flew in the Face of their own Superiours, and the Reverend and most Exemplar, both for Life and Doctrine, among their own Clergy, and especially the Bishops, were Treated with the utmost Disrespect; and saving that indeed, the thing is Melancholy in its own Nature, it seem'd a little Diverting, that the Bishops, who thought not proper to be as Mad as some Men would have them, were call'd Presbyterians by some of those very Clergy, who afterwards turn'd the very Convocation into a direct Presbyterian Assembly; and they that had so long, and some of them lately Preach'd up the Divinity, both of the Person and Authority of the Prince, and Enlarg'd upon the various Aggravations o Rebellion, to blacken the Party with, broke out in actual Rebellion in their intermediate Sessions, against the Authority of their Sovereign, and still persist in it; presuming, because they are hitherto Unconverted, that they shall for ever remain so.

With what prodigious Contempt, and Unmannerly Reproaches, have these Men Treated their Dioceſans? How thwarted their just Power, Insulted their Persons, invented Slanders, and in their Sermons and Printed Invectives openly Charg'd them, with Abandoning and Betraying the Church? Witness some *Oxford* Sermons, Witness the Printed Reasons of that Pretender, to a Church Representative upon the Bishop of *Exeter*, not to Instance in the Barbarous Treatment, of the Bishop of *Salisbury* and *Worcester*.

If I were to enter here into the long detail of High-Church Scandal, where should we End? Dr. *Brown* Insulting Mr. Secretary *Harley*, Mr. *Stevens* the Duke of *Marlborough*, the *Memorial* the whole Ministry, and particularly my Lord Treasurer; these are but Specimens, the Reproaching of the Queen and whole Government, has run thro' the whole Party, and nothing has been more indecent, than the Behaviour of these People to their Sovereign.

But I leave them to the Correction of their own Guilt, and doubt not in time, they will come to Blush, even from the very Lenity of that Government, they have thus Ill Treated.

It is worth while however, to observe a little here, from whence this Modern Cry was rais'd, upon what Foundation built, and what occasion'd all this most Unreasonable Clamour at the Government, since it could not be, that it had no Design in it, or aim'd at no End; the Gentlemen are too Wise to make so much stir for nothing: Let us therefore a little Review its Original, and lay Naked the most Ridiculous Pretence the World ever saw.

The Foundation of this Spectre, or Scare-Crow of the Church, finds its Original, like its Party, look'd two ways; had it been a true Zeal for the real Peace and Safety of the Church, it would in time, and by Exa-

Examining into the bottom of Affairs, have been better Inform'd, and have proceeded by more Setious and well Digested steps; what is founded upon Truth, will always be carried on with Sincerity, but the Noise, the Clamour, the Indirect Methods, and perverse Prosecution of the Party, betray them to be Born of Hell, and begun in Pride, Envy, Corruption and Ungovern'd Prejudice.

Why else are the best of the most Learned, the Men of the most pious Conversations, and untainted Reputation, among the Clergy and Gentry; why are not these in the same Cause? Are all the Gentlemen of Learning and Sence, Blind to the Safety of the Church? Can no Men see but the Men of Fire and Warmth? Are these Presbyterians and Phanaticks, and 41 Men, Thousands of whom sunk their Families, and go Lame, both in Body and Estate, of the Wounds receiv'd in defence of the Royal Family; others that have been exact Churchmen all their days, never were at a Meeting in their Lives, others dignifi'd in the Church, and who ought to be more nearly concern'd in her Safety than any body, being assur'd to lie under her Ruines; are all these Debauch'd with Phanaticism, turn'd Presbeterians, and Undermining the Church? This is very strange!

But to look back for the Original of this Cry of the Churches Danger, we shall find it a Monster born of two Mothers, Pride and Covetousness; and I shall enlarge upon the Allegory in my next.

MISCELLANEA.

I Find some People very sorry that the Dissenting Ministers, of whom this Paper has mention'd something, should not be chargeable in the Land Tax; and I have been desir'd to say something more on that Head.

I am not to undertake the Exposition of the Law here, nor does the occasion require it ——— When ever the Dissenting Ministers have been Tax'd, they have been expresly Nam'd, the Words of the Act now are ——— *All and every Person or Persons, having, using, or exercising any Publick Office or Employment whatsoever, shall yield and Pay* &c. 4 l. *for every* 20 l. *which they receive in one Year, by Vertue of every Salary, Gratuity, Bounty Money, Reward, Fees or Profit to him or them, Accruing for their several Offices or Employments.*

Now, leaving the Lawyers to determine the real Case, which they Universally do, in favour of the particular Case; I offer the following Observations.

1. None of the Persons in *England*, whom the same Words would include, excepting only such, as are expresly mentioned, Pay to this Tax; why then should the Dissenting Ministers?

2. To say the Church Ministers Pay in the Freehold, is saying nothing, for they do not pay out of the Tythe they receive; and so the Dissenting Ministers pay in the payment of their Hearers, who first paying the Taxes, pay the Ministers out of the Remainder.

3. The Word *Fees*, includes Lawyers and Physicians; and I would ask any of those Gentlemen, if they pay to this Tax, by Vertue of this Clause, for their Fees? And why, if they do not, the Dissenting Ministers should pay any more than they? I do not ask Dr. *Brown*, who Argues, they tell me, that Physicians ought to pay, whether he has paid it or no: because I doubt he may easily pay all that's due, upon the Fees he gets by that Profession; I wish him better Luck at Scribling than Doctoring, tho' doubt he will prove equally a Quack in both Professions.

But I would fain perswade that Gentleman, to leave the Scandalous Sin of Lying, and not mark his Party out by such things; he will